



FRY CLUB COLTS

U9 MATCH REPORT U9

Number 18 - **If you know neither the enemy nor yourself, you will succumb in every battle** - Sunday 19th February 2017

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HANHAM ABBOTONIANS
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On a grey but mild day, we welcomed Hanham to Somerdale Pavilion, who in the past we have had close games against. We were only without Tyler on the playing front, but we were also missing Andy who was off gallivanting again (according to him on a FA Course) so Gaz, Lee, Paul and Mark took over the reins.

The Game 1 line-up was:

Alfie
Tristen Finley
James Bradley W Aran
Bartek

Substitutes: Jamie & Aiden

We were first to attack with James getting the ball off one of their players and powering his way from the middle to the right-hand side of the penalty box before crossing the ball to where Bradley had found ½ a yard space. He got a foot to the ball but could only guide the ball into the 'keeper's arms. Like us they passed the ball out from the back with their coaching staff encouraging them not to go long. They worked the ball well down the left-hand side but a great crunching tackle from Finn stopped them as they got close to the penalty box and he laid the ball to Aran who beat one man before getting tackled. They laid the ball off to the player at the edge of the area who hit a shot that looked destined to end up in our net before Alfie dived at full stretch to get a hand to it and tip it around the post for a corner. Hanham had a series of corners that we defended well, and on the last one the ball bounced around like a pinball before Tristen cleared the danger. What was good to see when we were defending the corners throughout both games was that the boys were getting goal-side and looking to attack the ball. We were soon on the attack again

and a lovely cross-field pass from Bradley saw Bartek in a race to the ball with a defender! Bartek got there first, cut inside and got a shot away, however the defender did enough to put Bartek under pressure and the 'keeper made an easy save. Aran closed them down well and tricked his way past two players before shooting powerfully at goal; this time it was their 'keeper who tipped the ball past the post. A good corner from James came to Bartek who hit a first time shot that just went over the bar. They broke quickly and were soon in our half. Aiden had tracked back well though and got in a vital tackle which Tristen came across and cleared the danger with a pinpoint pass to Jamie who flicked the ball on to Bradley who got to the by-line before crossing low into the middle where Aran had made a great run to get to the ball before shooting just wide. It was end to end and only a brave save from Alfie diving at the feet of the Hanham attacker preventing them from scoring.

HALF-TIME: FRY'S 0 HANHAM 0

The 2nd half started the same as the first one ended with both defences on top form. Tristen and Finn made some crucial blocks and a great tackle by Aiden prevented Hanham creating a clear-cut chance. At the other end, James and Bradley both went close with good long-range efforts. As the half went on, we started to play some great football, our transition play was good as well which was demonstrated when Bradley took a quick throw and Aran was first to react and he ran clear of the Hanham defence. He got within a couple of yards of the goal and at a narrow angle got a shot away which the 'keeper did well to block and force behind for a corner. They got to the corner first and broke quickly; Aiden and Jamie had stayed back and closed them down well forcing them out wide on the right. Their player cut inside and the player running onto the ball hit a crisp shot which flew into the Keynsham sky; Alfie jumped hands outstretched and got the tiniest of touches to deflect the ball over the bar (Alfie showed great sportsmanship admitting that he had touched the ball after the blind ref had given a goal-kick). Aran got the ball off of Alfie and ran to the half way line; he beat a player before laying the ball off to James who even though the game was coming to an end still had the strength and energy to go on a long run with the ball down the right-hand

side, he cut in and got the ball away from the defender and fired in a low shot that zipped across the grass, the `keeper got down well but could not hold onto it. A massive scramble took place in the penalty area, and it came back to Aran who swung a foot at the ball, got a good connection on the ball but the shot went narrowly wide. Jamie showed great persistence getting the ball off them in the middle of the pitch before passing through the gap to Bartek who touched the ball into space before shooting into the corner only for the `keeper to get down well and cling on to the ball.

FULL-TIME: FRYS 0 HANHAM 0

Man of the Match – Chosen by Gaz for a great defensive performance – Tristen

The Game 2 line-up was:

Alfie
Liam Ethem
Charlie Finlay Keanu
Kaylum

Substitutes: Bradley G & Cory

Hanham were quickly out of the blocks and put through a ball which found the gap in the middle of our half, but Liam came across and got an important tackle in to stop the move; the ball though bounced to another of their players who shot first time which Alfie did well to save. Alfie rolled the ball out to Ethem who took a touch but was quickly closed down so he turned back into the middle but was tackled, the ball sliding into the penalty area and it was a race between Alfie and the striker to see who could get to the ball first with Alfie just winning and being very brave to dive on the ball just as the striker was going to kick it. We broke quickly with Charlie making a wonderful pass out wide to where Kaylum had gotten into space, and he ran with ball to the edge of the area before passing back to Finn who passed back first time to Kaylum who shot but could not get any power on the ball and it dribbled past the wrong side of the post. They broke on the right, but Keanu stood his ground and made a no-nonsense tackle and then had the composure to pass inside to Charlie who went on a little run before passing to Finn W who shot with immense power but the `keeper was up to the challenge and saved well. Brad closed them down like a terrier and beat another player before shooting low and hard, but the ball whizzed past the wrong side of the post. We were beginning to take control of the game and after a crunching tackle made by Keanu (which he had to come off for five minutes to recover from), Liam picked up the ball and fed Finn with a delightful ball, Finn did well to cross the ball to Kaylum who shot just wide. A good pass down the left by Ethem saw Cory able to stretch his legs and he got past one player before shooting; it looked like it was going in the bottom corner, but it bounced just wide.

HALF-TIME: FRYS 0 HANHAM 0

We started the 2nd half well with Liam and Brad working well together and a lovely ball from Liam saw Bradley in the clear and he moved into the area with total grace; we wondered if he was going to put the ball in the left-hand corner or right-hand corner, he decided to do neither and pass the ball down the middle straight at the `keeper! They kept trying to attack us down their right-hand side but were thwarted time after time by Cory who kept calm every time, got a touch on the ball to stop the attack and either looked to pass the ball down the line or if no one was available put the ball out for a throw in. From one of the throws Cory got to it first and passed it to Charlie who looked up and saw that Brad had got into space down the right; he got to the edge of the area before seeing Liam in space and crossed the ball. Liam let the ball go across him before shooting, unfortunately he was off balance when shooting and it just went wide. For a change they kicked the ball long, Ethem got to it first though and used his strength to hold off the Hanham player before passing to Kaylum who powered to the halfway line before laying the ball to Liam who got to the area before shooting; the defender though did well and deflected it behind for a corner. Liam took a good corner which Brad got his head to but the ball just went over the bar. Charlie was playing well in midfield and another good pass saw Brad in space in the middle. He beat one player and was looking to thread the ball out wide to Cory when the Hanham player clattered into him with the force of a runaway train. Brad dusted himself down and took the free kick which just went wide. Hanham were looking to get the all-important first goal and had got into our penalty area; Keanu got the first block in then Kaylum made a great tackle, but they still managed to get a shot away, but Alfie dealt with it well. We were away quickly, and Brad played the ball through to Liam who quickly got the ball out of his feet before looking for Charlie in the middle, Charlie got to the ball first, but his shot was deflected wide.

FULL-TIME: FRYS 0 HANHAM 0

Man of the Match – Chosen by Paul for a great defensive performance – Cory

OVERALL: FRYS 0 HANHAM 0

Afterthoughts.....

Well, our first ever 0-0 draw over both games. As the score line suggests this was a close side against a good side. The 1st game was an even game that both sides had chances to win, the 2nd game we dominated a little more especially in the 2nd half when we should have scored at least one. What was very pleasing about the overall performance was the effort that the boys put in, none of them stopped during the whole game and kept going which was brilliant. The only criticism was that at times we should have passed the ball rather than trying to beat two or three players before passing but again the boys will learn to vary when they run with the ball or pass as they get older, they also kept a great shape and the boys in defence kept in position and not once were we exposed at the back! A special mention to the boys of our defensive unit of the team as they have come on so much: well done Finn M, Tristen, Ethem, Keanu, Cory, Aiden and Tyler who generally play in defence and well done to the rest who fill in.